

## Grade 5 Science Curriculum Overview 2010/2011

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Grade 5 Science! I am looking forward to a fun year of learning and inquiry as we explore weather, matter, energy, and the characteristics of living things in fifth grade.

Throughout the course of the year, students will expand and strengthen their observing, classifying, inferring and predicting skills working both independently and collaboratively.

**Weather:** A social and environmental emphasis unit that studies how water, wind, temperature and humidity interact. The characteristics of common and extreme weather systems will be investigated. Activities will include making a rain storm, producing a barometer and predicting our Duke School weather using weather bug.

**The Chemistry of Matter:** A nature of science emphasis unit that studies matter. There will be a focus on what makes up matter and reaction types through experimentation and discussion. Activities will include making non-apple pie, and experimenting with chemical and physical reaction labs.

**Energy:** A science and technology emphasis unit that investigates what we know about the nature of light, heat, and electricity. The technologies that have been developed as well as the principles of different energy forms will be investigated. Activities will include making ice cream, producing a pinhole camera and deciphering the mystery of infrared diagrams.

**The Characteristics of Living Things:** A social and environmental emphasis unit that studies how we make sense of the diversity of living things, what living things have in common, and the variations that we find in structure and function will be investigated. Activities will include behavioral journaling at the Lemur Center, dissecting chicken wings and scientific drawings of flowers.

Please take some time to explore the grade 5 science Moodle page at <http://dsmoodle.org>. I will be posting notes, homework, labs, interesting websites and much more on a weekly basis.

There will be a reference material binder going home that can stay at home as a resource for your child. Please use this at-home binder to answer questions about what we are doing in class or to read more about a topic we cover in class. And always feel free to email or call me at the school with any questions.

I am looking forward to another wonderful year of exploring and learning with our delightful fifth graders,

Angela Nelson  
Grade 5 Science